

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-43 are currently pending. Claims 1, 13, 30 and 35-37 have been amended. New dependent claims 38-43 have been added.

35 USC §112 Rejections and Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 36 has been amended to omit the objected to phrase and has been rewritten in independent form.

35 USC §102 & §103 Rejections

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephonic interview on January 7, 2004, wherein the prior art of record and the pending claims were discussed. More specifically, Applicants explained that the claims as originally presented recite a flexible jacket covering permanently attached to a cylinder base cover. The Examiner explained that the rejections over the '998 reference are premised on a view that attachment of the flexible jacket covering to the cylinder base cover with VELCRO constitutes permanent attachment. As conveyed during the interview and the response to Office Action dated September 22, 2003, Applicants strongly disagree that permanently attached can reasonably be interpreted to read on VELCRO, especially in view of the description of the means for permanent attachment set forth in paragraph [0035] of the specification. However, in an effort to substantively advance prosecution, Applicants submit herewith amendments to independent claims 1, 30, 35 and 37 further defining permanent attachment as set forth in paragraph [0032] of the specification. Furthermore, Applicants submit new dependent claims 38-43 further defining means for permanent attachment as set forth in paragraph [0035] of the specification. Such amendments and new claims make clear that

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permanently attached does not include VELCRO, and therefore Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application as amended is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or comments or otherwise feels it would be helpful in expediting the application, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (972) 731-2288.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any further fees associated with any of the foregoing papers submitted herewith, or to credit any overpayment thereof, to Deposit Account No. 50-1515, Conley Rose, P.C.


Respectfully submitted,

CONLEY ROSE, P.C.

Date:

1-8-04

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